



OFFICE of the GOVERNOR

Governor's Outstanding Leadership in Disabilities (GOLD) Awards

The Governor's Office of Disability Affairs will host the 2016 Governor's Outstanding Leadership in Disabilities (GOLD) Awards on November 16, 2016 at the Old State Capitol. The GOLD Awards is an opportunity for Louisiana to pay tribute to the achievements and dedication of individuals in the disability community. These are the following awards:

Distinguished Merit Award	Patsy Barrett Memorial Award
Ken Vince Memorial Award	Educator of the Year
Youth of the Year	Family of the Year
Volunteer of the Year	Employer of the Year
Service Provider of the Year	Direct Support Professional of the Year
Veteran of the Year	Service Animal of the Year

The Governor's Office of Disability Affairs strives to structure the awards ceremony to celebrate all Louisiana citizens who have inspired positive changes within the disability community. With your help, the 2016 GOLD Awards will honor the devotion and talents of those who have worked diligently to make Louisiana a better place for all people. Nominations of anyone deserving of such recognition is encouraged.

The following pages include a description of each award as well as the criteria for each. The last page is the nomination form. All nominations must include a completed nomination form, letter of nomination describing the nominee's achievements and contributions, and letters of support from others.

Submissions for nominations are due by Monday, October 3, 2016. Nomination packets must be completed and mailed to the Governor's Office of Disability Affairs, 1201 N. 3rd Street, Suite G-219, Baton Rouge, LA 70802. Nomination forms, supporting documents, and photographs will not be returned.

All questions should be directed to Jamar Ennis at jamar.ennis@la.gov or 225-219-9866.



OFFICE of the GOVERNOR

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Distinguished Merit Award

This award is given in recognition of extraordinary service by an individual, organization, or firm working in the disability field that has consistently presented opportunities in Louisiana for people with disabilities to utilize their capabilities in achieving full participation in society.

Criteria:

- Makes strides in expanding educational opportunities.
- Creates initiatives to improve access to housing, buildings, and transportation.
- Participates in recreational, social and cultural activities.
- Advocates for greater opportunities for employment for people with disabilities.
- Enhances rehabilitation programs/facilities for people with disabilities.
- Increases the application of technology on behalf people with disabilities.

Patsy Barrett Memorial Award

Patsy Barrett was a human rights activist, and she initiated the GOLD Awards in 1982 to recognize those people who work for equality, justice and dignity for people with disabilities. Ms. Barrett was also involved in policy development at the national level and she worked with leaders who helped formulate the Americans with Disabilities Act into Federal Law.

Criteria:

- A woman with disabilities recognized for her leadership abilities and achievements as a disability advocate.

Ken Vince Memorial Award

Ken Vince was a rehabilitation counselor who touched the lives of hundreds of people in Louisiana through his advocacy for people with disabilities. His commitment generated a greater public awareness of the needs of people with disabilities and fostered a greater participation in society for the disability community.

Criteria:

- A male with disabilities who is recognized for his leadership abilities and achievements as a disability advocate.



Governor's Outstanding Leadership in Disabilities (GOLD) Awards

Educator of the Year

This award is given in recognition of an outstanding individual who has contributed significantly in educating people with disabilities in our community.

Criteria:

- Demonstrates outstanding leadership within the field of education for people with disabilities.
- Advances the importance of education and awareness through strong advocacy and programs.
- Motivates and inspires; others including students, colleagues, and those in the community.
- Positively influences students with disabilities.

Youth of the Year

This award is given in recognition of a young person with a disability who has, by example of achievement, provided encouragement and inspiration to other young people with or without disabilities.

Criteria:

- Must be between 13-25 years of age.
- Participates in activities for the benefit of people with disabilities
- Demonstrates outstanding exceptional achievement.
- Displays persistence and initiative in dealing with his/her disability.
- Contributes toward increased awareness for people with disabilities.

Family of the Year

This award is given in recognition of a family who has a family member(s) with disabilities and who, by involvement in the community, and mutual support of one another, are an example of courage, strength, and unity for other families in Louisiana. Traditional and non-traditional families are encouraged to apply.

Criteria:

- Meets the challenges of a disability.
- Maintains outstanding efforts in achieving a dynamic and cohesive family unit.
- Recognizes the contributions of each family member.
- Participates in community.
- Is recognized by others in the community for quality of family life and participation in the community.



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Volunteer of the Year

This award is given in recognition of extraordinary service by a volunteer or organization that has substantially enhanced the opportunities in Louisiana for people with disabilities to use their skills and develop their potential as members of society.

Criteria:

- Demonstrates outstanding or exceptional contributions as a volunteer.
- Participates in activities for the benefit of people with disabilities.
- Exhibits selflessness and a willingness to devote time, talents and efforts on the behalf of people with disabilities.
- Makes contributions that increase public awareness and understanding of people with disabilities.

Employer of the Year

This award is given in recognition of outstanding achievement in providing integrated competitive employment opportunities for people with disabilities.

Criteria:

- Maintains an excellent history of hiring people with disabilities.
- Provides meaningful employment opportunities especially for people with disabilities.
- Supports and promotes individuals with disabilities to succeed in their career field.

Service Provider of the Year

This award is given in recognition of service above and beyond the call of duty by an individual or organizational provider of services to people with disabilities.

Criteria:

- Demonstrates outstanding or exceptional contributions as a provider of services.
- Participates in activities for the benefit of people with disabilities beyond the scope of compensated services.
- Exhibits selflessness and a willingness to devote uncompensated time, talents and efforts on the behalf of people with disabilities.
- Makes contributions that increase public awareness and understanding of people with disabilities.



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Direct Support Professional of the Year

This award is given in recognition of extraordinary service by a direct support professional that has substantially enhanced the life for people with disabilities to live more independently and productive, as well as support self-determination and individual development.

Criteria:

- Shows the individual they assist an unconditional respect for their daily choices and life goals.
- Exhibits dependability and punctuality.

Veteran of the Year

This award is given in recognition of a veteran with a disability who has served honorably in the United States Armed Forces, and has a record of exemplary service in the disability community.

Criteria:

- Contributes towards increased awareness for veterans with disabilities in the community.
- Devotes outstanding volunteer efforts in his or her community.
- Works continually to inspire the lives of others.
- Honorably discharged veteran of the United States Armed Forces.

Service Animal of the Year

This award is given in recognition of a service animal who has exhibited exceptional assistance to a person with a disability.

Criteria:

- Pulls wheelchairs, carries and or retrieves things for persons with mobility impairments.
- Assists persons with mobility impairments with balance.
- Must be certified and qualified by an accredited institution.
- Both owner and service animal have demonstrated perseverance in facing barriers



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2016 GOLD Awards Nomination Form

(Please Print)

Nominee's Information:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____, LA Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Is the nominee aware they are being nominated? ____ Yes or No ____

Circle award for which you are nominating the person/organization/animal:

Distinguished Merit Award

Patsy Barrett Memorial Award

Ken Vince Memorial Award

Educator of the Year

Youth of the Year

Family of the Year

Volunteer of the Year

Employer of the Year

Service Provider of the Year

Direct Support Professional of the Year

Veteran of the Year

Service Animal of the Year

Your Information:

(Nominators must be present at ceremony and provide introduction if the nominee is selected.)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____, LA Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

The GOLD Awards will be held on November 16, 2016 at the Old State Capitol.

Nominations are due by Monday, October 3, 2016.

Mail all documents to:

Governor's Office of Disability Affairs

1201 N. 3rd Street, Suite G-219, Baton Rouge, LA 70802

All nomination packets must include the following:

1. Completed nomination form.
2. Letter of nomination describing the nominee's achievements and contributions.
3. Letters of support from others.